

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JULY 25, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0471
4008 RIDGELEA DRIVE**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1947 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame house with minimal traditional styling; central, partial-width shed-roofed independent porch on turned wood posts; one-story, side-gabled addition to the rear of the left side of the house; single 1:1 fenestration.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1947 by local developer W. Murray Graham, of the same family who developed Old Enfield and Pemberton Heights. The first occupant of the house was John B. Reeves, who rented the house from around 1947 to around 1950. Nothing is known about Mr. Reeves. Around 1954, the house was purchased by Charles R. and Ruby Belle Porter, who lived here for the rest of their lives. Charles R. Porter was a native of Crockett, Texas, who moved to Austin with his family in time to attend Austin High School. He met his wife, Ruby, while both were working at HEB. Charles then went on to work for the State Board of Insurance, where he was a statistician and actuary. After Ruby's death in 2009, he continued to live in this house until his death in 2013.

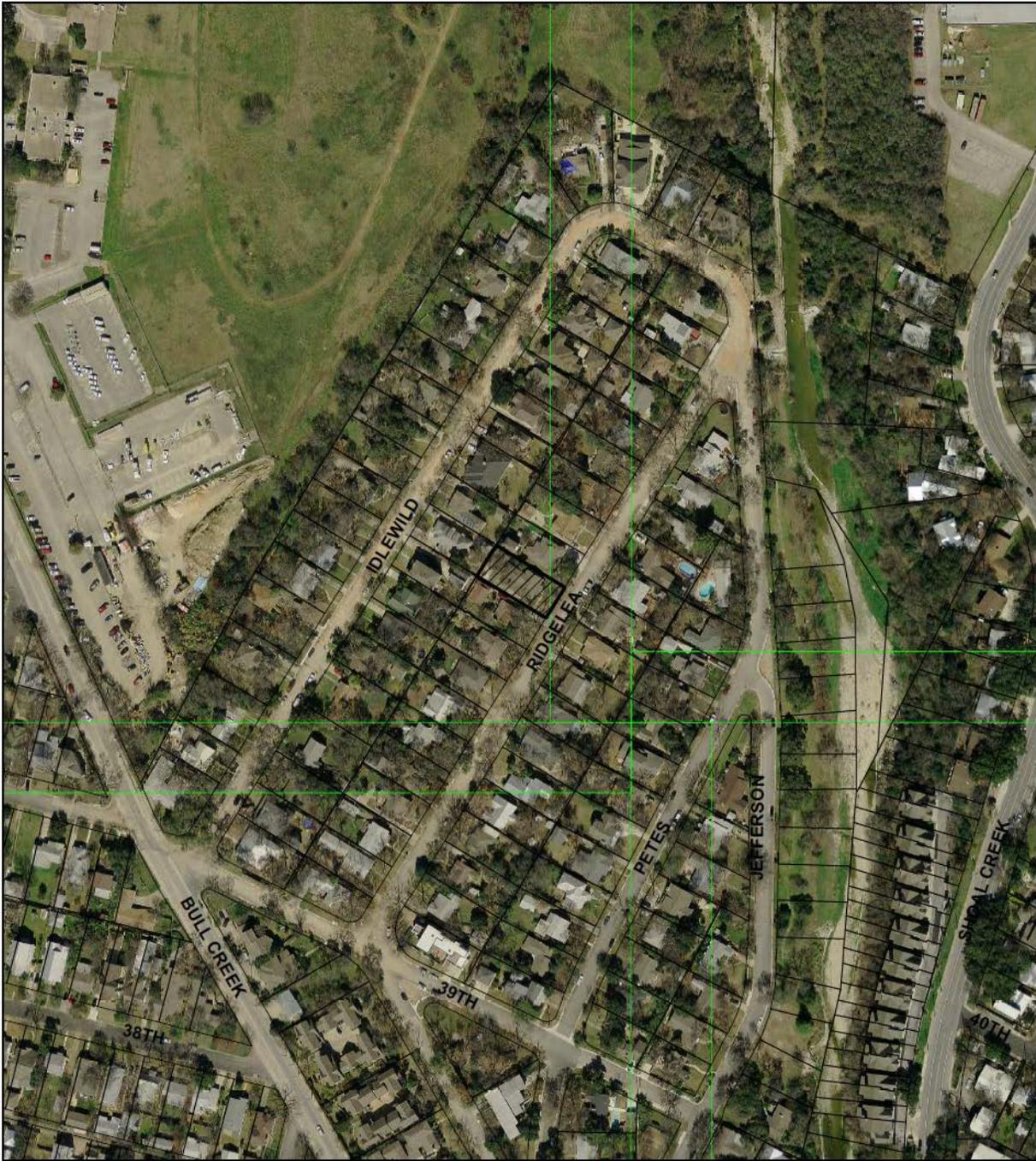
STAFF COMMENTS

The house is not listed in any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, but release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history, for archiving at the Austin History Center. This house appears to be in good condition, and represents the scale and style of this neighborhood to a very high degree. While staff does not believe that the house qualifies as an individual landmark, it would be contributing to a historic district in this neighborhood, so every effort to rehabilitate and re-use this house should be considered before resorting to demolition.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 208'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2016-0471
4008 RIDGELEA DRIVE

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



4008 Ridgelea Road
ca. 1947



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 4008 Ridgelea Road

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
July, 2016

1992	Charles R. and Ruby B. Porter, owners Retired
1985-86	Charles R. and Ruby B. Porter, owners Actuary, State Board of Insurance
1981	Charles R. and Ruby B. Porter, owners Actuary, State Board of Insurance
1977	Charles R. and Ruby B. Porter, owners No occupation listed
1973	Charles R. and Ruby B. Porter, owners President, Interfraternity Council, University of Texas
1968	Charles R. and Ruby B. Porter, owners Statistician, State Board of Insurance
1965	Charles R. and Ruby B. Porter, owners Statistician, State Board of Insurance

- 1962 Charles R. and Ruby B. Porter, owners
Statistician, State Board of Insurance
- 1959 Charles R. and Ruby B. Porter, owners
Assistant supervisor, State Board of Insurance
- 1955 Edward I. Combio, renter
NOTE: There is no listing in the alphabetical section of the directory for an Edward I. Combio.
NOTE: Charles R. Porter does not appear to be listed in the directory.
- 1952 Richard R. and Betty Phillips, owners
Consignee
- 1949 John B. Reeves, renter
No occupation listed
- 1947 No houses are listed on Ridgelea Road.
NOTE: John B. Reeves is not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Charles R. and Ruby B. Porter (ca. 1957 –

Ruby Belle Sakewitz Porter

Ruby Belle Sakewitz Porter, of Austin, died on November 10, 2009, following a courageous three year battle with Wegener's Granulomatosis.

Ruby was born on July 4, 1928, to parents Oscar and Augusta Sakewitz in Taylor, Texas and was raised on the family farm. She was baptized and confirmed at West Taylor Immanuel Lutheran Church and attended Polanka and Coupland schools. She moved to Austin in 1947 and was employed by HEB for eight years and retired from the Internal Revenue Service after fourteen years of service.

During her employment with HEB, Ruby met and married fellow employee Charles Porter; they were married in Ruby's childhood church, West Taylor Immanuel Lutheran. Ruby and Charles joyfully celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on September 10, 2009.

Ruby was a faithful member of First English Lutheran Church of Austin for more than fifty years and found great peace and joy in her church community.

Ruby was a talented seamstress and a gifted cook who loved nothing more than preparing a wonderful meal for her family. She was a devoted and loving mother to her two sons and a doting and proud grandmother of six grandchildren. She was a kind and gentle friend to all who knew her.

Ruby is survived by her husband, Charles R. Porter of Austin, her sons, Charles R. Porter, Jr. and his wife Connie and his step-sons Jake and Nick Williams and Terry L. Porter (Merrily), all of Austin, and her grandchildren, Charles R. (Chuck) Porter, III, David F. Porter and Mary Margaret Porter, all of Houston, and Mary Kate Porter, Caroline S. Porter and Madeline R. Porter, all of Austin. Ruby is also survived by her sister, Nelda Boatright, of Austin, her brother-in-law Davy Porter and sisters-in-law Joyce Porter and Peggy Whetzel, and many loved nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Ruby was preceded in death by her sisters Lillie Wolf, Rena Gustafson and Erna Moehnke and by her brothers Roy Sakewitz, Elmer Sakewitz and Delwin Sakewitz.

Funeral services will be held Friday, November 13, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis Avenue, Austin, Texas, with the Reverend Michael Coffey officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are requested to First English Lutheran Church.

Obituary of Ruby Belle Porter
Austin American-Statesman, November 12, 2009



Charles Ray Porter Charles Ray Porter of Austin died at midnight January 7, 2013. He was born on January 14, 1930 in Crockett, Texas to parents James Henry and Regina Merle Porter. Charles attended school in Crockett until January, 1942 when the family moved to Austin. He graduated from Austin High in 1947 and the [University of Texas](#) in 1954. Charles retired from the State Board of Insurance in 1987 after 31 years of service primarily in the actuarial division. While attending UT, he worked at HEB where he met and married fellow employee Ruby Sakewitz. They were married September 10, 1950 and celebrated 59 years of marriage before Ruby's death in 2009. They were members of First English Lutheran Church for more than 50 years. Charles was an avid fan of the Longhorns and attended football, baseball and basketball games spanning eight decades beginning in the 40's as a teenager until 2012. He loved to build and was an accomplished carpenter. He loved the challenge of fixing things. He especially loved to build things for his grandchildren. Charles is preceded in death by his beloved wife Ruby and by his parents and brother, Davy. He is survived by his sons Charles Ray Porter, Jr. and wife Connie and Terry Porter and wife Merrily, all of Austin. He is also survived by his grandchildren Charles Ray Porter, III (Chuck), David Finnegan Porter, and Mary Margaret Brollier (Clay), all of Houston, Mary Kate Rice (John), Cypress, Caroline Sanders Porter, Denver, CO, and Madeline Rose Porter, Austin, and by his step-grandsons Jake and Nick Williams of Austin. Charles is also survived by his sister, Peggy Whetzel of Tyler and his sister-in-law, Joyce Porter of Georgetown, and many beloved nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held Friday, the 11th of January, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, at First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis Avenue, with Michael Coffey officiating. Memorials are requested to First English Lutheran Church.

Obituary of Charles R. Porter
Austin [American-Statesman](#), January 9, 2013

W. M. Graham 4008 Ridgelea Drive

160

55

Ridgelea

Frame residence and garage

34175 6-13-47

\$7000.00

Tom Quinn

5

Building permit to W. Murray Graham for the construction of this house (1947)

WATER SERVICE PERMIT

No. ¹⁶⁰ B 4030

Austin, Texas

REPLACES STUB - B-5848

Received of MURRY GRAHAM Date 9-15-47
 Address 4008 RIDGELEA DR.
 Amount TWENTY + NO/100 \$ 20.00
 Plumber BURLESON Size of Tap 3/4"

Date of Connection	<u>9-18-47</u>
Size of Tap Made	
Size Service Made	
Size Main Tapped	
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	<u>7.5</u>
From <u>SD</u> Prop. Line to Curb Cock	<u>2.0</u>
Location of Meter	<u>CURB</u>
Type of Box	<u>LOCK</u>
Depth of Main in St.	
Depth of Service Line	
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	
Checked by Engr. Dept.	<u>P.H.H. 10/10/47</u>

No. Fittings	Size
Curb Cock	
Elbow	
St. Elbow	
Bushing	
Reducer	
Pipe	
Lead. Comp.	
Nipples	
Union	
Plug	<u>3/4" SLICED</u>
Tee	
Stop	
Box	<u>1 1/2" R.I.D.</u>
Lid	<u>1 1/2" R.I.D.</u>
Valves	
Job No.	<u>W-223-502</u>
Req. No.	<u>11-1-1-1</u>

INDEXED

Water service permit to Murray Graham for this address (1947)

Receipt No. 8360 Application for Sewer Connection No. 22935

Austin, Texas 9-13-47

To the Superintendent of Sanitary Sewer Division, City of Austin, Texas.

Sir:—
 I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by Murray Graham at 4008 Ridgelea Dr. Street, further described as Lot 55 Block - Outlot - Division - subdivision Ridgelea Plat 160 which is to be used as a Plan
 In this place there are to be installed 5 fixtures. Plumbing Permit No. 2-64-201
 I agree to pay the City of Austin, the regular ordinance charge. 9-13-47

Depth at Prop. Line 3' 3' at street Respectfully,
 Stab Out Connected } 17' NA SLL
 Date 9-29-47
 By W. Oran

NOTE: Connection Instruction Stub in place 17' NA SLL. See 5163

Sewer connection application by Murray Graham for this address (1947)

OWNER Charles Porter ADDRESS 4008 Ridgelea Drive
PLAT 186 LOT 55 BLK -
SUBDIVISION Ridgelea
OCCUPANCY Bedroom and bath
BLD PERMIT #114087 DATE 8-18-69 OWNERS ESTIMATE \$3,500.00
CONTRACTOR Ben Goldstein NO. OF FIXTURES several
WATER TAP REC # Exist SEWER TAP REC # Exist
Frm addn to rear of Residence
224 sq. ft.

Building permit to Charles Porter for a frame addition to the rear of the house (1969)

OWNER Charles Porter ADDRESS 4008 Ridgelea Dr.
PLAT 186 LOT 55 BLK
SUBDIVISION Ridgelea
OCCUPANCY Re Roof
BLDG. PERMIT # 200070 DATE 8-1-80 OWNERS ESTIMATE 2,292.00
CONTRACTOR Earl R. Cury Roofing NO. OF FIXTURES
WATER TAP REC# SEWER TAP REC#
Re roof existing res.

Building permit to Charles Porter to re-roof the house (1980)